

Agenda

Council

**Thursday, 14 February 2019, 10.00 am
County Hall, Worcester**

This document can be provided in alternative formats such as Large Print, an audio recording or Braille; it can also be emailed as a Microsoft Word attachment. Please contact Democratic Services on telephone number 01905 846621 or by emailing democraticservices@worcestershire.gov.uk

DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:
'Disclosable pecuniary interests' and **'other disclosable interests'**

WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3rd party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you

WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
 - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI

WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:
 - You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests** **OR** relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
 - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

Thursday, 14 February 2019, 10.00 am, County Hall, Worcester

Agenda and Summons

Councillors: Mr B Clayton (Chairman), Mr A A J Adams, Mr R C Adams, Ms P Agar, Mr A T Amos, Mr T Baker-Price, Mr R W Banks, Mr R M Bennett, Mr C J Bloore, Mr G R Brookes, Mrs J A Brunner, Mr P Denham, Ms R L Dent, Mr N Desmond, Mrs E A Eyre, Mr A Fry, Mr S E Geraghty, Mr P Grove, Mr I D Hardiman, Mr A I Hardman, Mr P B Harrison, Mr M J Hart, Ms P A Hill, Mrs A T Hingley, Mrs L C Hodgson, Dr A J Hopkins, Dr C Hotham, Mr M E Jenkins, Mr A D Kent, Mr R C Lunn, Mr P M McDonald, Mr S J Mackay, Mr L C R Mallett, Ms K J May, Mr P Middlebrough, Mr A P Miller, Mr R J Morris, Mr J A D O'Donnell, Mrs F M Oborski, Ms T L Onslow, Dr K A Pollock, Mrs J A Potter, Prof J W Raine, Mrs M A Rayner, Mr A C Roberts, Mr C Rogers, Mr J H Smith, Mr A Stafford, Ms C M Stalker, Mr C B Taylor, Mr R P Tomlinson, Mrs E B Tucker, Mr P A Tuthill, Mr R M Udall, Ms R Vale, Ms S A Webb and Mr T A L Wells

1 Apologies and Declaration of Interests

To receive apologies and invite any councillor to declare any interest in any of the items on the agenda.

2 Public Participation

To allow a member of the public to present a petition, or ask a question relating to the functions of the Council, or to make a comment on any matter on the agenda.

Members of the public wishing to take part should notify the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in writing or by e-mail indicating both the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9.00am on the working day before the meeting (in this case 13 February 2019). Further details are available on the Council's website. Enquiries can also be made through the telephone number/e-mail address listed below.

3 Minutes

To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2019 (previously circulated electronically).

4 Chairman's Announcements

To receive any announcements to be made by the Chairman.

5 Reports of Cabinet 1 - 8

To consider the reports of the Cabinet and to receive answers to any questions asked on those reports as follows:

- a) Reports of Cabinet – Matters which require a decision (**Yellow pages**); and
- b) Report of Cabinet – Summary of decisions taken (**White pages**).

6 Notices of Motion 9 - 12

To receive the report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services on any Notices of Motion received by him (**Lilac pages**).

Councillors are asked to note that any Notices of Motion must be received by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services no later than noon on Tuesday, 5 February 2019.

7 Report of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care 13 - 18

To receive the report of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care on current issues and proposed developments within his area of responsibility and to receive answers to any questions on the report (**Green pages**).

8 Question Time 19 - 20

To receive answers to any questions asked by Councillors (**Orange pages**).

(Members are reminded of the timescale adopted by Council for notice of questions. A Councillor may only ask a question if:

- *It is delivered in writing to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services by noon on Tuesday, 5 February 2019 or*
- *If it relates to urgent business, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services is notified at least half an hour before the start of the meeting.)*

9 Reports of Committees 21 - 24

To consider the report of Pensions Committee and to receive answers to any questions asked on it.

NOTES

- **Webcasting**

Members of the Council are reminded that meetings of the Council are Webcast on the Internet and will be stored electronically and accessible through the Council's Website. Members of the public are informed that if they attend this meeting their images and speech may be captured by the recording equipment used for the Webcast and may also be stored electronically and accessible through the Council's Website.

- **Catering Arrangements**

Lunch will be available at 1.00pm or thereabouts in the Lakeview Room. This will be provided for all Councillors, without payment, and for pre-notified guests, who must be paid for in advance. An indication of any guests wishing to take luncheon should be given to staff in the Business Support Unit at least three days before the Council meeting.

Agenda produced and published by Simon Mallinson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP. The above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk

To obtain further information or a paper copy of this agenda please contact Simon Lewis, Committee Officer by telephone on Worcester (01905) 846621 or slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk

Date of Issue: Wednesday, 6 February 2019

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COUNCIL
14 FEBRUARY 2019**REPORT OF CABINET – MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A
DECISION BY COUNCIL**

2019/20 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan Update 2019-22**Recommendation**

- 1. The Leader and Cabinet recommend that:**
 - (a) the budget requirement for 2019/20 be approved at £330.390 million as set out at Appendix 1b having regard to the proposed Transformation and Reforms programme set out in Appendix 1c;**
 - (b) the Council Tax Band D equivalent for 2019/20 be set at £1,260.75 which includes £90.83 relating to the ring-fenced Adult Social Care precept, and the Council Tax Requirement be set at £264.428 million, which will increase the Council Tax Precept by 3.99% in relation to two parts:**
 - **2.99% to provide financial support for the delivery of outcomes in line with the Corporate Plan '*Shaping Worcestershire's Future*' and the priorities identified by the public and business community**
 - **1% Adult Social Care Precept ring-fenced for Adult Social Care services in order to contribute to existing cost pressures due to increases in demand-led Social Care;**
 - (c) the Capital Strategy 2019-22 and Capital Programme of £397.510 million be approved as set out at Appendix 1D and 1E respectively;**
 - (d) the earmarked reserves schedule as set out at Appendix 2 be approved;**
 - (e) the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators set out at Appendix 5 be approved; and**
 - (f) the Council's Pay Policy Statement set out in Appendix 6 be approved.**

[NB Report and Appendices referred to are those presented to 31 January 2019 Cabinet]

- 2. All Councillors will have had access to the full report and Appendices considered by the Cabinet on 31 January 2019 via email/internal link and in their Group rooms and the Members' Lounge, and are referred to the website or those hard copies for the full detail. A very limited number of hard copies will be available at the meeting.**

Cabinet Report – 31 January 2019

3. The Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Finance which in summary included details of:

- the main updates to the budget proposals since the Cabinet meeting on 13 December 2018
- the current financial position of the Council for 2018/19. The forecast position at Period 8 suggested a £3 million overspend. Management action continues to be taken and the aim is to have a balanced budget by 31 March 2019. As a result there could be a further need to draw on reserves to support the recurrent revenue budget up to this sum. Capital schemes are broadly on target to be within the re-programmed spend profile at year end and the schools' budget is reported to be balanced at 31 March 2019, however the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) faces significant in-year pressures
- funding of the Council's Corporate Plan priorities. The current Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) takes account of the Corporate Plan and reflects the current Government funding announcements. The financial plan confirms the commitment to continue to resource the Council's priorities of: Open for Business; Health and Wellbeing; Children and Families and the Environment
- the Council's updated MTFP. The assumption at present for 2019-22 is that there will be a total of around £60 million of savings, reforms and income generation that will need to be found (£23 million in 2019/20).

Funding Gap Forecast 2019-22

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
Medium Term Financial Plan	£000	£000	£000	£000
Funding	330,390	339,259	351,938	1,021,587
Projected Budget Requirement	353,354	356,199	373,210	1,082,763
Funding Gap (Before Reforms)	22,964	16,940	21,272	61,176

Local taxation accounts for 80% of all funding income in 2019/20, 19% will come from the Council's share of the Business Rates and the remaining 1% from collection fund surpluses. The MTFP forecast is that the Council will experience a positive cash flow for the next few years (see above table). However, the scale of cost pressures facing the Council is more than the projected increase in income. The focus of the spending challenges faced in 2019/20 are coming from a continued rise in demand for adult and children's social care, underlying pressures from non-recurring savings, contract and other inflation and pay and

National Living Wage inflation. This results in a gross funding requirement in 2019/20 to meet all these challenges of £35.6 million. It is anticipated that the growth and pressures on spend will continue at a similar level however a number of reform programmes are being designed to address pressures and as such the planned investment for future years is £44.5 million. Transformation and change programmes in Adult Social Care and Children's Services are focused on addressing the projected budget gap in addition to the progression of a Commercial Strategy focused on improving procurement practices to secure efficiencies and the reshaping and redesign of services in partnership and through digital technology to generate further efficiencies. The MTFP is aligned to corporate programmes to deliver savings. A robust MTFP is therefore in place to allocate resources to set and deliver balanced budgets for the remaining three years of the Corporate Plan, starting with 2019/20 that supports the delivery of the Council's priorities

- the level of funding available for 2019/20. The Council's Settlement Funding Allocation was announced as part of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement during December 2018. The final settlement has now been received and is in line with expectations. The Council and its six District Council partners could expect to benefit from their successful application to be a 75% Business Rates Retention Pilot. This is for 2019/20 only and could amount to around £4.9 million to be used for reducing and preventing social care costs. The funds will be retained separately from the base budget to be allocated by an Executive Body made up of members of the Pilot. The proposals for the Council Tax are an increase to 2.99% together with a 1% Adult Social Care Precept. The Council's level of Council Tax remains low when compared to comparative councils. After adjusting for movements in grant, the proposed levels of Council Tax and the new Adult Social Care Precept, the net impact is that the Council projects it will have £330.4 million of funds available which represents a net increase from 2018/19 of £6.2 million (1.9%). The level of demand however significantly exceeds this amount and therefore savings are also required
- the level of investment required for delivering the Corporate Plan in 2019/20. Changes to assumptions on both income and spend have occurred since the MTFP was reported to Council in February 2018 including the gross level of pressures which has changed from the forecast financial plan of £22.5 million to £35.6 million. The first call on the increase in Council Tax and Adult Social Care Precept is to directly fund these pressures. After accounting for the £9.4 million reduction in Government Grant, offset by the additional income raised: £15.6 million raised by Council Tax; £4.5 million of one-off Social Care Grant and £2 million from other grants, and 75% Business Rates Gain cost avoidance/transfer from Earmarked Reserves of £2.2 million, the £35.6 million pressure is reduced to a net savings to find of £20.7 million. Funding has to be re-allocated to address this. Areas where investment is required include Adult Social Care, Children's Safeguarding, Worcestershire Children First, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Placement budget, highways, household waste disposal and pay and related costs
- the Capital Strategy and Capital Programme. The Capital Programme for 2019/20 proposes a total value of £131 million of works. The Programme is largely built up from Government and other grants received or due to be received. This amount is forecast to be £66 million in 2019/20. Additional sums in the form

of capital receipts from sales of assets and borrowing are able to be added to the Programme. Capital receipts assume a total of £10.8 million in 2019/20 together with a borrowing assumption of £48 million which is felt affordable within the current provision for financing. One of the major drivers of borrowing increases is to invest in the economy and infrastructure. The Council has identified £26 million for Open for Business and Regeneration to include proposals to cut congestion, provide rail station upgrades and extra parking facilities, invest in next generation economic 'game changer' site(s), walking and cycling bridges and town centre improvements and the provision of a Local Members' Highways Fund. It is anticipated that the Capital Programme can be funded within the current budget for the Council's cost of borrowing

- schools' funding (DSG). The total provisional Schools' Funding Settlement for 2019/20 is £411.505 million. Cabinet in December 2017 approved the Local Schools Funding Formula for Worcestershire mainstream schools for 2018/19 and 2019/20 to move as close to the National Funding Formula (NFF) parameters as was affordable. The DfE NFF includes provision in each year for a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) of +0.5% per pupil; a cap of +3.0% per pupil to support the cost of the MFG by limiting the gains for those schools who would receive larger increases in funding through the formulaic changes due to the NFF parameters; and national Minimum Funding Levels for the primary, middle and secondary sectors that increase between 2018-19 and 2019-20
- the level of savings, reforms and income required. The Council's proposed budget for 2019/20 includes the need for £20.7 million of savings proposals after allowing for £2.2 million of social care costs being challenged through the 75% Business Rates pilot gain and any under provision then being met from Earmarked Reserves. Following the engagement and consultation process it is proposed that a small number of savings will be replaced by use of the £1 million Strategic Initiatives budget held in Corporate Items. This includes removal of the Highways £0.5 million saving, partial removal of £0.155 million of the Archives proposal, full removal of the Communities income saving target of £0.1 million, a reduction in the Libraries three year target saving of £1 million by £0.2 million overall and an allocation of £0.145 million in 2019/20 for a Community Solutions Fund. The savings proposals have been classified to align to the Corporate Plan and MTFP
- the resultant Council Tax precept calculation. The Cabinet has recommended that the Council Tax Band D equivalent for 2019/20 be set at £1,260.75 which includes £90.83 relating to the ring-fenced Adult Social Care precept, and the Council Tax Requirement be set at £264.428 million, which will increase the Council Tax Precept by 3.99% in relation to two parts:
 - 2.99% to provide financial support for the delivery of outcomes in line with the Corporate Plan '*Shaping Worcestershire's Future*' and the priorities identified by the public and business community
 - 1% Adult Social Care Precept ring-fenced for Adult Social Care services in order to contribute to existing cost pressures due to increases in demand-led Social Care

- an assessment of reserves. The Council's General Fund estimated reserve at 31 March 2019 based on the forecast outturn is circa £12.2 million. This means the General Fund Reserve is in line with the revised recommended level. Future use of these funds is a matter of last recourse given the levels
- engagement on the proposals. The proposals have been subject to review and scrutiny by a range of stakeholders. They have also been presented to individual scrutiny panels who received additional finance briefings in preparation for the scrutiny of the budget. The key messages from that scrutiny have been reported through the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board
- the Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20 including Prudential Indicators. The Treasury Management Strategy has been updated to include how the current forecast for interest rates will affect borrowing and lending transactions
- a Pay Policy Statement for 2019/20 which clarifies the strategic stance on pay in order to provide direction for members and officers making detailed decisions on pay and provide Worcestershire residents with a clear statement of the principles underpinning decisions on the use of public funds
- consideration of other factors including the Equality Duty, risk, privacy and public health assessments, professional legal, financial, HR advice, and the Council's statutory duties when setting the budget and precept.

Mr S E Geraghty
Chairman

Note – members are reminded that all votes on the budget and any amendments will be recorded in accordance with legislation

Supporting Information – Available with the report to Cabinet 31 January 2019 at <http://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=2639&Ver=4>

Appendix 1A	Financial Plan Update 2019-22
Appendix 1B	Service Budget summary before recharges
Appendix 1C	Summary of savings, reforms and income proposals
Appendix 1D	Capital Strategy
Appendix 1E	Capital Programme
Appendix 2	Earmarked Reserves Reconciliation
Appendix 3	General Fund Reserve's assessment
Appendix 4	Comments from Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board and other groups
Appendix 5	Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators
Appendix 6	Pay Policy Statement
Appendix 7	Equalities Duty Assessment

Appendix 8 Public Health Ring Fenced Grant spending plans 2019/20

Appendix 9 Glossary of terms

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report

Nichola Garner, Committee & Appellate Officer

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and background papers for the meeting of the Cabinet held on 31 January 2019.

COUNCIL
14 FEBRUARY 2019**REPORT OF CABINET - SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN**

School Admissions Policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, Academic Year 2020/21

1. The Cabinet has approved the School Admissions Policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2020/21 and the scheme for Co-ordinated Admissions for Primary/Middle and Secondary Schools for 2020/21. The Policy has been amended to give second highest priority in the oversubscription criteria to children who have previously been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

2. Currently applications with a first preference for In-Year school transfers into a Community or Voluntary Controlled School in Worcestershire are forwarded to School Admissions. Those for Academy, Free or Voluntary Aided School in Worcestershire or another local authority are forwarded to the individual schools. The Cabinet has considered a proposal for the Council to co-ordinate all In-Year applications on behalf of Worcestershire residents. The proposal will provide consistency and timely processing of applications for the benefit of parents, ensure legal responsibilities are met and enable the Council to keep accurate pupil data tracking and up to date figures on the availability of places in the area for reporting to the DfE, Office of the Schools Adjudicator and Ofsted. The Cabinet has approved the scheme for In-Year Co-ordination for 2020/21 with this change.

3. The Cabinet has also noted proposed changes to the Published Admission Number of a number of schools within the county.

Worcestershire Passenger Transport Review and Strategy Development

5. A Passenger Transport Review is to be carried out to inform the development of a Passenger Transport Strategy which will set out clear policies detailing the Council's position on aspects of transport provision and highlight future approaches to be adopted. There have over a number of years been changes to public transport provision. In particular there has been a decline in the commercial bus market which is likely to continue in line with national trends in falling patronage. The Council is hindered in its ability to make decisions about public transport provision without a robust Passenger Transport Strategy.

6. The Passenger Transport Review will give consideration to all the elements that make up the Council's £20m spend on transport activities. In devising the new Strategy it will be important to consult with the public including engaging with stakeholders, such as operators and district councils. The Cabinet has approved the development of such a Strategy, taking a strategic and holistic view of all public and community transport provision including home to school transport arrangements, fares and ticketing, concessionary travel, bus priority, infrastructure and information. The Strategy will be

informed by the Review of needs and demands (including future development) together with an assessment of how well these are met by current services. It will also consider changes in the local market for public transport and different options for the future.

7. The Cabinet has authorised the Directors of Economy and Infrastructure and Children, Families and Communities to undertake the Passenger Transport Review and, in consultation with the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Highways, and Education and Skills, develop a draft Passenger Transport Strategy to be presented to Cabinet in June 2019 for formal approval for public consultation with a view to a decision regarding the Strategy at the November 2019 Cabinet.

Mr S E Geraghty
Chairman

Contact Points

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Nichola Garner, Committee and Appellate Officer

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and background papers for the meeting of the Cabinet held on 31 January 2019.

COUNCIL
14 FEBRUARY 2019**NOTICES OF MOTION**

Notices of Motion Received

1. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reports that he has received the following 3 Notices of Motion. The Constitution provides that any submitted motion must be moved and seconded at the meeting. Otherwise, unless postponed with the consent of the Council, it will be treated as withdrawn.
2. If a motion is in relation to the exercise of an executive function it will be referred to the Cabinet for decision (if applicable this will be indicated below). Otherwise the Council may decide itself to determine the Motion, or refer it to the Cabinet or another appropriate Committee for advice before determining it at the next available meeting.

Notice of Motion 1 – Works carried out under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991

3. **This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function and the Council may decide to determine the Motion.**
4. Notice of Motion standing in the names of: Mr M J Hart, Mr A D Kent, Mrs J A Brunner, Mr G R Brookes Mrs E A Eyre, Mr A Stafford, Mr P A Tuthill.

"This Council is concerned at the increasing number of complaints with regards to works carried out under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991.

Recent examples seen have produced a flood of complaints regarding temporary traffic lights installed with inadequate signage, poor response to complaints when said lights fail, lights installed without permits, third party contractors employed by statutory companies with inadequate training and supervision, poor quality and dangerous works that have resulted in emergency additional road closure orders for safety reasons, blocking of highways with plant, mud and rubble left on the highway and inadequate signage and lighting for pedestrians. In one recent case a large section of the highway was destroyed and will need replacing due to the poor quality works carried out.

The works carried out often require Worcestershire County Council's highways officers to respond at Worcestershire County Council's expense to cover for the inadequate service, works and supervision from the statutory companies. This Council agrees that it is completely unacceptable that Worcestershire tax payers' money should be used to pay for this.

As a Council we are proud of the excellent reputation and performance of our highways and repairs and this Council resolves to request the Cabinet Member

with Responsibility for Highways bring a report to a future meeting of Cabinet setting out how Worcestershire County Council can ensure that those statutory undertakers, utility companies and third parties not meeting our excellent standards when undertaking works on the highway are held to financial account and scrutiny."

Notice of Motion 2 – Care Workers

5. This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function and the Council may decide to determine the Motion.

6. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mr R M Udall, Mr R C Lunn, Ms C M Stalker, Ms P A Hill, Mr C J Bloore, and Mr L C R Mallett:

"Council acknowledges and respects the 15,000 Worcestershire residents who work in the care industry. Many more residents are dependent upon their care. Council asks the Cabinet Member Responsible to consider ways in which their work can be celebrated and encouraged and how more people can consider care work as a viable career option."

Notice of Motion 3 – The impact of NHS car parking charges on on-street parking near hospital sites in Worcestershire

7. This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function and the Council may decide to determine the Motion.

8. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mr C J Bloore, Mr R M Udall, Mr L C R Mallett, Ms C M Stalker, Ms P A Hill and Mr R C Lunn:

"Council notes the ongoing problems of car parking outside and near hospital sites in Worcestershire affecting on-street parking and the significant disadvantages faced by some Worcestershire residents accessing acute hospital sites due to a lack of public transport.

Council believes that as a direct consequence of NHS car parking charges many patients are seeking to find free on-street car parking near hospital sites, leading to dangerous and anti-social parking near hospital sites in Worcester, Redditch and Kidderminster, adversely affecting the statutory road traffic regulation functions of the Council.

Council believes it is wrong for its Council Taxpayers' funds to be spent on the consequential traffic regulation orders, the painting of yellow lines, resident parking permit schemes and the cost of enforcing such orders when action that is more effective can be taken.

Council requests that the Leader of the Council invite the Chief Executive of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust, Matthew Hopkins, to meet to discuss ongoing problems of on-street parking on the Council's road infrastructure and to urge him to consider removing car parking charges on Worcestershire

Hospital sites in order to reduce the adverse impact upon the Council's functions.

Council also requests that the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Health, Matt Hancock, calling for funding to run a pilot of free car parking on Worcestershire Hospital sites in order to assess the impact on the Council's functions."

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report

Simon Lewis, Committee Officer

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

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COUNCIL
14 FEBRUARY 2019**REPORTS OF CABINET MEMBERS WITH RESPONSIBILITY**
– CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADULT
SOCIAL CARE

1. It gives me great pleasure to be able to bring my report to Council. It has been my aim to build on the vision as set out in Corporate Plan. *“It is our priority, working with partners, to ensure Worcestershire residents are healthier, live longer, have a better quality of life and remain independent for as long as possible.*
2. We will work together with partners and communities to enable Worcestershire residents to make responsible choices when planning their lives to achieve the best possible outcomes. We will enable individuals to become or remain independent, self-reliant and an integrated part of their local communities. We have been bringing direction, balance, and order to this vision.
3. I do sometimes wonder if members understand as to why adult social care is important to the Council apart from the financial issues.
4. We all strive for a happy and fulfilling life – and we should all have the support we need to live one. But some people need extra care or support – practical or emotional – to do the everyday things that many of us take for granted. That’s where adult social care fits in – providing a safety net to those who need it, and empowering people of all ages, with a range of conditions and needs, to live with opportunity, independence and control.
5. The system supports both older people and working age adults who have physical and learning disabilities, mental health conditions or are generally frail. People can receive care in their own homes, community settings like day centres or in care homes.
6. High quality social care brings people together by helping to create a network of local support that enables people to lead the lives they want to lead, and to participate and contribute to society.
7. We work closely with health but we are far more than just an adjunct service – we need recognition of the role that social workers and social care assistants play – helping thousands of people in Worcestershire lead safe, dignified and independent lives – over 8,000 people in this financial year.
8. It has been 18 months of considerable effort by all our staff to get us to a position of stability on our finances. We have been, as a Council, able to make very significant financial investment, firstly by rebasing the 18/19 budget and secondly by making today a £14m investment for next year. This will bring stability to the service, and is a realistic position in terms of responding to demand for the next year. It puts our budget in the

range of our statistical and near neighbours. I do welcome the specific government grants we have seen in next year's budget, which will help delayed discharges, and support core services.

9. We have seen, in this period, the roll out of a new way of delivering services as well. Our 3Cs model is now live across the County and showing excellent results – we are seeing more people and seeing them more quickly. Previously the average waiting time was 42 days - it is now 5 calendar days. Our skilled social work staff are helping people to remain at home living independently, rather than responding to crisis situations which all too often resulted in an older person entering residential care.

10. I am delighted to be able to report that after a lot of effort we have a settled approach to using Technology to help us in promoting independence. We are working in partnership with Worcestershire Telecare to use assistive technology like sensors and voice activated kit to help people to remain at home. I would welcome members to visit the technology suite at Berrington Court.

11. There has been an amount of turbulence on the national stage, with nursing and residential homes such as Allied Health Care failing; while there have been failing in a couple of cases, our system is still in a reasonable state. It is worth noting that 76% of nursing and residential homes remain at good or outstanding (CQC rating) which keeps us in the top 5 nationally quality of provision.

12. We must always remember that an effective Social Care system needs a good case management system. So after some 14 years we are retiring our framework and investing in a new system called Liquid Logic. This is a widely used platform that I hope will see improvements in service. This is a £2m investment in a new case work management system that will go live in October 2019.

13. In the calendar year 2018 we moved 50 people into supported living, 30 from residential, family settings and transitions and 20 into more independent settings from other supported living properties. We opened Stourside - 15 flats for people with learning disabilities in Stourport and a number of shared houses.

14. In 2019 three supported living schemes are opening – Bryson Place in Bromsgrove, Bedwardine Court in Worcester and the Burrows in Droitwich, a total of 40 units. There are currently 475 people with Learning Disabilities, Mental Health and Physical Disabilities in supported housing. This gives a total of eleven clusters of flats accommodating 147 units.

15. 2 new Extra Care schemes opened in 2018. They were School Gardens in Stourport-on-Severn, having a capacity of 60 apartments, and Cherry Orchard in Pershore with a capacity of 53 apartments. The addition of these 2 schemes gives us a total of 12 Extra Care schemes, and a capacity of 869 apartments, in Worcestershire.

16. In 2019 Parsons Gardens will be opening in Broadway with 40 flats and 10 bungalows.

17. I wish to reaffirm that in line with our new business plan we have clear our service priorities over the next two years:

- Reduce the number of older and younger adults whose long term support needs are met by admission to care homes. In comparison with other counties it appears that we need to change a default position that a bed or an institution is the correct option
- Increase the number of customers whose short term support services enable them to live independently for longer
- Increase the number of older people who stay at home following reablement or rehabilitation
- Most importantly, sustain the current performance on delayed transfers of care from hospital
- To keep working with our health colleges and our communities to prevent, reduce or delay the need for care. We must continue support our staff and equip them with the skills they need to continue to do a good job.

18. This is to try address the increasing demographic and demand challenges which the service continues to face. We have an increasing volume of demand due to an ageing population, with people who previously funded their own care, becoming eligible for care due to depleting resources, and younger people with disabilities becoming eligible for Council funding as they turn 18 or later in life as their own parents become infirm.

19. At the same time we have increasing cost due to increased frailty of older people needing more intensive care, people with more profound disabilities surviving longer into adulthood and needing more intensive care as they get older, and market forces factors that affect the ability of providers to offer care packages and placements at the Council's standard rates – including from 2016/17 the rise in national minimum wage.

20. Based on 2014 ONS population projections, the projected increase in the older adults (aged 70 and over) in Worcestershire was expected to be around 92,000 in 2019, up from 83,000 in 2014. The recently released 2016 ONS population estimates now predict the over 70s population to be much higher at around 99,500.

21. The increase is accounted for by a rise in the number of people in the very oldest age groups coupled with the fact that people in Worcestershire are generally living longer. The number of people in the oldest 75+ age group is projected to increase from 60,000 to 79,000 between 2018 and 2025. People in the oldest age group are likely to have higher needs associated with frailty, comorbidity and living alone. This is an increase of 19,000 people or a percentage increase of 32%. Overall, 28% of our population are now aged over 65.

22. It is against this back drop that I am keen to develop our dementia care across the County and especially in the north of the County.

23. I do think that the Council has a tendency to underestimate our place in the economy. Over 15,500 people are employed in the care sector in Worcestershire and there are 180 registered nursing and residential care homes, most of which are small and medium sized enterprises. This is an important part of our economy. In 2019 I will be bringing forward plans on how we can help to recruit and retain staff in this sector

24. I would like to pay tribute to our carers. There are over 70,000 carers in Worcestershire. Worcestershire Association of Carers tells me that the national annual net value generated by carers is over £160b.

25. Unpaid carers perform a unique role in our society and increasingly, most of us are likely to assume responsibility for helping to care or support someone close to us at some point in our lives. We become carers when our caring responsibilities exceed normal expectations for a relationship due to the illness or chronic condition of someone close to us. Many people enjoy or derive great satisfaction from their carer role and may acquire new skills and friendships, but carers often unknowingly place their own physical, mental and financial wellbeing at risk of harm without appropriate support.

26. The Council's main support for carers is delivered by Worcestershire Association of Carers – which receives around £1.6m to carry out their essential role in assessing carers, supporting individuals and advocating for carers as an invaluable group.

27. Safeguarding vulnerable Adults is a key role for us. In 17/18 (figures always a year behind) there were 1942 safeguarding referrals of which around 18% met the criteria for a safeguarding investigation to be initiated. Our safeguarding priorities remain:

- To listen to people who have been subject to abuse or neglect, and seek assurance that people are able to be supported in the way that they want, are involved in decisions and can achieve the best outcomes
- To be assured that safeguarding is embedded in communities, raising, awareness, promoting well-being and preventing abuse and neglect from occurring
- To seek assurance that effective policies, procedures and practices are in place that ensure the safety and well-being of anyone who has been subject to abuse or neglect, are proportionate and that action is taken against those responsible.
- To learn lessons and make changes that prevents similar abuse or neglect happening to other people.

In addition to the safeguarding team the Council has retained a quality team, which, using a risk matrix, works with providers that are causing concern, providing advice on good practice or raising safeguarding concerns as appropriate. In 2018 the team worked with 57 providers, completing 138 visits. We did consider the possibility of stopping this service but having met with them I was able to see the benefit of their work.

28. Looking forward to a few Strategic Priorities to drive at over the next 2 years:

- There is general consensus that the only viable solution to the rising demands for care must be a national funding solution. I am in contact with our MPs and met with the Secretary of State, Matt Hancock in late December. I will continue to press for government action not just to resolve the funding issue for local government but to resolve how individuals should pay for care – we need to encourage people to plan for their care needs in the same way that they plan for their pensions – not face catastrophic costs
- The most successful councils have close relationships with all of their health system. I would like to take the opportunity of the Council's redesign process to explore how we can work with health colleagues both as providers and commissioners. I am pleased to say that we are actively working with our District colleagues on preventing demand and reducing social care costs through the

rates retention scheme. We can still do more to involve our communities and Parish Councils in helping us with demand

- Redesigning our 'front door' to enable people to self-serve and link to community based organisations
- Bring forward a strategy for our in-house provider functions
- Develop a community based reablement model to support our 3Cs work and help people to remain at home
- We need a Workforce strategy across partner organisations that starts to address the skill mix of our workforce with an action plan to recruit and retain staff in the health and care sector.

29. I would just like to thank all our staff for their help and support over the year.

Adrian Hardman

Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care

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COUNCIL
14 FEBRUARY 2019**QUESTION TIME**

Question 1 – Pathway improvements - Westlands Estate, Droitwich

1. Mr R J Morris will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"I would like to ask the Cabinet Member for Highways if there is any additional support to help with the pathways on the Westlands Estate, Droitwich? He will be aware that little has been done to improve pathways on the estate since the 1970s when the estate was built. We have managed to complete resurfacing along the Farmers neighbourhood however there are several neighbourhoods on the estate where the pavements are in severe disrepair."

Question 2 – Green Grit Bins

2. Mrs F M Oborski will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"Town and Parish Councils have previously been able to purchase Green Grit Bins to be placed to serve Highways areas which did not qualify for the Yellow WCC Grit Bins. I have now been made aware that this facility has apparently been withdrawn and such Grit Bins can only be placed at sites which meet County Council Highways Criteria. Can the Cabinet Member inform me:

- a) if this is true, When this change in Policy took place?;
- b) What Member involvement took place in making this decision?; and
- c) When were Elected Members and Town and Parish Councils informed?"

Question 3 – Worcestershire Regulatory Services – Enforcement Action

3. Mr R C Lunn will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities:

"Can the Cabinet Member inform Council as to how many people were prosecuted across the county in 2018 as a result of enforcement carried out by Worcestershire Regulatory Services?"

Question 4 – Social Isolation of Elderly Worcestershire Residents

4. Mr R M Udall will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care:

"Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care explain to Council what he has done to reduce the risks of social isolation for elderly Worcestershire residents?"

Question 5 – Traveller encampments on Berry Hill industrial Estate, Droitwich

5. Mr R J Morris will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"Can I please ask the Cabinet Member for Highways what protection is planned for Businesses on the far end of Berry Hill industrial Estate, Droitwich, to protect and safeguard them from the frequent traveller encampments they experience? We need to support the ongoing businesses which are regularly adversely affected."

Question 6 – Lea Street School, Kidderminster

6. Mrs F M Oborski will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills:

"Staff working at the Primary PRU and the MET Education Centres based at Lea St School Kidderminster tell me that they believe that their use of these premises may be due to cease at the end of the Summer Term 2019. Could the Cabinet Member tell me:

- a) If this Timetable is true?; and
- b) Where it is intended to provide replacement facilities?"

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

COUNCIL
14 FEBRUARY 2019**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE PENSIONS**
COMMITTEE

Local Government Pension Scheme Central (LGPSC) Budget and Business Plan 2019/20

1. Each year LGPSC is required to produce an updated budget and Strategic Business Plan. The intention of the Company and Practitioners Advisory Forum (PAF) which has key representation from lead officers for each of the Partner funds is to take an agreed set of papers to the Shareholder Forum which is being held on the 12 February 2019. Given the importance and financial implications for Worcestershire's Pension Fund, it was felt that the 2019/20 LGPSC budget and business plan should come to the Committee for discussion and debate before it went to the Shareholders Forum meeting.

2. During the discussion, members of the Committee expressed a degree of disquiet about the financial implications for Worcestershire's Pension Fund of updated LGPSC budget and Strategic Business Plan. The Committee has therefore agreed that the LGPSC Budget and Business Plan for 2019/20 update be noted and the Fund's Stakeholder representative be asked to take the following views to the next Shareholders Forum meeting on 12 February 2019:
 - i. Concern about the culture of LGPSC, in particular the lack of focus on the views of the client pension funds (including a failure to recognise the role of the Practitioners Advisory Forum (PAF)) and the lack of strategic focus on investment;
 - ii. The need for greater transparency in the funding arrangements of the Pool;
 - iii. concern about the relationship between the Budget and Business Plan for 2019/20 and the original cost-sharing agreement, in particular the forecast reduction in the cumulative saving up to 2033/34 for the Worcestershire Pension Fund;
 - iv. Concern about the Pool's cost control mechanisms;
 - v. The lack of a user-friendly executive summary for members and a lack of clarity in the presentation of information by the Pool;
 - vi. An expectation that cost-sharing would be reviewed to look at options to bring it back to the original forecast £4m savings in line with the original cost-sharing agreement;

The Fund's representative on the Stakeholder Forum will address any significant changes to the Budget and Business Plan on its behalf in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

3. The Committee also noted the LGPSC latest version of the LGPS Central Budget 2019/20 presentation and the LGPS Central Strategic Business Plan.

Funding Strategy Statement update for changes to LGPS regulations

4. All employers of the Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund were provided with the Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) which was implemented with effect from March 2017 following the 2016 Actuarial Valuation. The purpose of the FSS is to set out a clear and transparent funding strategy that will identify how each Fund employer's pension liabilities are to be met going forward.

5. The Administering Authority is required to monitor the progress of the funding strategy between full actuarial valuations and review the strategy if it is considered appropriate. The overarching regulations of the LGPS were updated with effect from 19 April 2018 through an amending Statutory Instrument; the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2018. The Fund has therefore taken the view to update the FSS to reflect this legislative change which relates to the ability to allow a surplus of assets over liabilities to be paid out of the Fund when an employer terminates.

6. No responses were received following consultation with employers and the Committee has approved the updated Funding Strategy Statement.

Covenant Monitoring update

7. Covenant is the measure of how certain the Fund can be that an employer will be able to support its liabilities and pay contributions due. The weaker the covenant means the higher the risk. All employers were contacted over the summer 2018 to request details of their latest accounts data and to date 66% returns overall had been received. The responses received have been collated by the Actuary for analysis of the employers' financial strength, sustainability and ability to meet pension costs and a traffic light system is being used to identify/rate high risk.

8. Those employers who have yet to respond would be chased, particularly employers with larger liabilities. The outputs of this exercise will be used to enter into/continue dialogue with the high risk employers and to tailor strategies for valuation, funding and investment. The Committee has noted the Covenant Monitoring update and next steps.

Mr R W Banks
Chairman

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points
County Council: 01905 763763
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Specific Contact Points for this report
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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda papers for the meeting of the Pensions Committee held on 21 January 2019.

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